

## WATCH AND BE SOBER

### 1 Thess 5: 4-11

#### 1. Message of Examination.

**1 Th 5:4-5** Day of dividing--children of light separated from children of darkness.

**Overtake:** Seize, take possession of; take eagerly.

Christians associated with light...unbelievers are associated with darkness.

Darkness blinded unbeliever's whole being. 2 Cor 4:4

Because of darkness, unbeliever:

- Not watchful of Day of the Lord – caught unexpectedly
- Doesn't have faith
- Lacks hope
- Lacks ability to love with God's love

Darkness always associated with behavior that doesn't please God.

Psa 74:20; 82:5

Light associated with that which pleases God: Job 29:2-3; Isa 2:5

Peoples' hearts darkened. Rom 1:21

Christians are to stay away from works of darkness: Rom 13:12-13; Eph 5:11-13

God eventually manifest hidden works of darkness. 1 Cor 4:5, 12-13

**1 Th 5:4 -5 Children of the day:** believers are not in darkness that Great & Terrible Day of the Lord should overtake (seize, possess) as a thief.

**1 Cor. 2:14 True of unbeliever:**

1. Not receptive to things of Spirit of God
2. Thinks spiritual things & activities foolish.
3. Cannot have personal knowledge of spiritual
4. No spiritual discernment.

When a person calls upon name of Lord for salvation, Holy Spirit rips off spiritual blindfold, turns on spiritual light, and comes to indwell

#### 2. Message of Spiritual Challenge

**1 Th 5:6-7**

**Watch:** be alert, vigilant, awake; opposite of indifference (sleep-v. 6).

Mat 24:42 Mat 26:41 Mark 13:33 Mark 14:38 Col 4:2 1 Cor 16:13

Live in light of Christ's return.

G. Campbell Morgan, *I never begin my work in the morning without thinking that perhaps He may interrupt my work and begin His own. I am not looking for death. I am looking for Him.*"

In the military the sentinel on duty watches for the enemy

**Sober.** discreet. Watch—mental; Sober--moral. Be stable in lifestyle.

Hendrichson: *To be sober means to be filled with spiritual and moral earnestness, being neither overly excited on the one hand, nor indifferent on the other, but calm, steady, and sane (1 Pet. 4:7), doing one's duty and fulfilling one's ministry."*

Has depth. Not controlled by carnal nature

1 Tim 3:2, 11 ; Tit 1:8; 2:4, 6; 1 Pet 4:7

Two kinds of men:

- Watchful alert, vigilant, sober
- Asleep and drunk

**1 Th 5:6-7 Sleep:** moral indifference

- Attitude of not being aware of what is going on.
- Unconsciousness of coming events
- Insensitivity to importance of staying consistent in spiritual walk.
- Live as if never be a day of judgment.
- Spiritually and morally lax.
- Moral indifference and carelessness about spiritual things.

Luke 12:45 ; Mat 25:1-8

**1 Th 5:8 Soldier on duty.**

**Be Sober:** Present tense. Continual and consistent attitude of moral consistency & stability.

**Putting on:** Aorist tense. Momentary action. *Put armor on and leave it on.*

**Breastplate:** Protects breast or part of body which holds lungs and heart. Affects spiritual breathing and inner life – affections.

Two Types of Breastplate:

- Of faith--view of God & total reliance upon God
- Of love--view of God and others

This referring to our view of God and others.

**8...and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**

Paul used this triad of faith, hope and love back in 1 Th 1:3

**Hope:** Confident expectancy...protects mind..outlook on life.

Salvation: future aspect of salvation...eternal security. Eph 2:12

**Unto:** the sum total of every spiritual endowment and blessing granted me on basis of redemptive work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hope:** Looks to future. ... future aspect of salvation.

### 3. Message of Encouragement

**1 Th 5:9-11** born-again believer not appointed to wrath. Not have to go through Tribulation